

July 2008



Leisure Access Services

Park and Recreation services for people with disabilities

Paralympic Partners Kick Off Event

Contact Information

Leisure Access Administration

275 NW 2 St.
305-755-7848
305-755-7980 (TDD)

AD Barnes

3401 SW 72 Ave.
305-665-5319
305-669-4052 (TDD)

Coral Estates Park

1405 SW 97 Ave.
305-226-1622
305-222-2128 (TDD)

Goulds Park

11350 SW 216 St.
305-234-1673
305-234-1712 (TDD)

Greynolds Park

17530 W. Dixie Highway
305-945-3425

Camp Matecumbe

13841 SW 120 St.
305-752-4966
305-385-6230 (TDD)

Tamiami Park

11201 SW 24 St.
305-222-2128
305-222-2175 (TDD)

Westwind Lakes

6805 SW 152 Ave.
305-380-9106

Miami-Dade Parks is proud to announce it is the first organization to partner with the U.S. Paralympic Committee as a Paralympic Sports Club. This partnership was "kicked off" June 21, 2008 at Tropical Park with a signing ceremony, resource fair, and sports clinics. The Paralympic Partners will work together to increase the possibility of sending Miami-Dade citizens with physical or visual disabilities to the Paralympics, which are comprised of sport events for athletes from six disability groups. They are held the same year and at the same place as the Olympics, being held in Beijing, China this year. We wish the best of luck to all the athletes who will be competing. Miami-Dade Parks is committed and looks forward to working with national and local partners to ensure children with physical and visual disabilities have the opportunity to learn sports and recreation activities while they are young, and, as they age, have access to ongoing outlets for both recreation and competition. This increases physical, social and emotional health. Any organization serving persons with physical and visual disabilities is welcome to join us. Our first Paralympic Partners meeting will be in September. For additional information, please call Beatriz Reynaldos at 305-755-7829/305-755-7980 (TDD).



From top left to bottom right: Antoinette Hill (U.M. Mailman Center), Ryan Hamlet (Shake-a-Leg), John Register (U.S. Paralympics), Christine Szymaskek (Mapet Sled Hockey Team), Tim Andexler (DCPS SCORE), Alvaro Ortiz (Colusana), Lee Morgenstern (A.C.T.), Marcela Vieira (Abilities of Florida), Cindy Borroto (Dept. of Health Children's Medical Services), Nadia Arguelles (City of Miami Parks), Maria Bandklayder (U.S.T.A), Ron Book (The Leisure Access Foundation), Lucy Binhack (Disability Services, Manager M.D. Parks), Jack Kardys (Director M D. Parks), Jody Santiago (Recreation Therapist, M.D. Parks), George Parrado (Assistant Director M.D. Parks), Christine Ballart (Spina Bifida Association), Enrique Lopez (Paralyzed Veterans Association).

Paralympic Partners “Kick Off” Event continued...

Paralympic Partners Agreement

Partners shall work together to:

- Refer participants between organizations.
- Promote overall health and wellness in all activities.
- Create new programs to develop Paralympic athletes.
- Create, collaborate, and coordinate activities and events.
- Create a county calendar of events/activities for all to share.
- Enhance and improve existing recreation and sports programs.
- Share resources, equipment, facilities, best practice knowledge.
- Implement clinics and camps that teach adaptive sports techniques.
- Support each other in grant submissions or funding these programs.
- Benefit the population of persons with visual and physical disabilities.



Above: John Register (Associate Director, U.S. Paralympics) introduces Paralympic athletes Carlos Leon and Scott Danberg.

Below: (left) Christine Ballart, Spina Bifida Association, and (right) Ron Book, Leisure Access Foundation, sign the Paralympic agree-

“Arts For All”- ZOT Artz equipment



Through a grant from The Children’s Trust, The Miami Dade Department of Cultural Affairs has purchased adaptive art tools! These tools were designed by Dwayne Szot, owner of Zot Artz company, to assist children and adults with physical disabilities create beautiful art. These tools can be attached to a wheelchair or walker. Some enable artists to roll special designs with paint onto mural paper on the floor. Others allow them to roll or stamp designs onto paper on the walls. These tools will be available for loan to organizations providing inclusive recreation or serving children with disabilities. For further information about the loaning program, contact Beatriz Reynaldos at 305-755-7829/305-755-7980 (TDD). For more information about the Zot Artz tools, you can visit www.zotartz.com.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: GISEL PRADO, CTRS



Gisel Prado began working for Leisure Access Services on July 23, 2002 and has always shown great passion and dedication for her career. When asked why she chose this profession she replied, "Giving people with disabilities the opportunity to try new and fun experiences, putting smiles on their faces and overall servicing the community in general are my passion." Gisel is proud of all of her accomplishments in Leisure Access. However, there are a few moments that hold a special place in her heart, such as the time when the wheelchair camp she supervised won third prize in a middle school "Fun with Fitness" poster contest. She fondly recalls a child with Down Syndrome with emotional and behavior challenges who went to her camp. While at first he never wanted to interact with other

children and was afraid to go in the pool, within five weeks of Gisel working closely with him, he showed major improvements. He began playing with other children, following directions from staff, and even learned how to swim! Gisel cherishes those moments when parents approach her and thank her for helping their child. They keep her strongly motivated! When asked what is needed to run such successful programs, Gisel stated, "Getting programs designed, promoted, and implemented, using resources as cost effectively as possible, always being motivated, persevering, working hard, and being goal oriented are the keys to a great and successful program." Gisel has a Bachelors Degree in Therapeutic Recreation from FIU and is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. She plans to go back to school and complete her Masters Degree within the next five years.

WATER EXERCISE

Leisure Access Services offers the following water exercise programs.

AD Barnes Pool: 3401 SW 72 Ave

-Special Olympics Swim Team

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5:00-6:00 pm

-Low Impact Water Exercises

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11am-12pm

**Contact Celia Leyva at

305-665-5319/ 305-669-4052 (TDD)

Tamiami Park Pool: 11201 SW 24th St

-Low Impact Water Exercises

Wednesdays & Fridays from 11am-12pm

**Contact Arlene Bouza-Jou at

305-222-2128/ 305-222-2175 (TDD)

Goulds Park: 21805 SW 114 Ave

-Low Impact Water Exercises

Tuesday & Thursday from 11am-12pm

**Contact Jody Cox at

305-752-4966/ 305-385-6230 (TDD)

BEACH WHEELCHAIRS

People with mobility impairments can use beach wheelchairs to access the beaches below. These chairs are free of charge and available on a "first come, first served" basis. To decrease waiting time, it is best to call ahead.

Beach locations and contact information:

Crandon Beach

4000 Crandon Blvd.

Key Biscayne, Fl.

786-336-6980

Haulover Beach

18000 Collins Ave.

N. Miami Beach, Fl.

786-336-6990



WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Looking for something to do on Saturday mornings? Join us for wheelchair tennis. Whether you are a novice or an expert, you can practice every Saturday morning at the Big Five Club, 600 SW 92nd Ave. The program is free and it is available for anyone age 16 and up who uses a wheelchair. For more information contact Jody Cox at 305-752-4966.



The Miami Heat Wheels



Support Leisure Access Foundation fundraising for Disability Sports by shopping on the internet through www.easyrebounds.com

Get discounted prices on products from trusted stores such as Walmart, Target, Little Tykes, Macy's, Chadwicks, Baby Phat, Disney, and many more!

Follow these steps to get cash back for your cause on over 60 million products:

- 1) Visit www.easyrebounds.com
- 2) Log on using the following information
Username: lasheatwheels
Password: basketball

3) Shop, Shop, Shop...**for every purchase you make, our team receives up to 15% of the cost.**